

THE rearranged date for Wycombe's Berks and Bucks Senior Cup semi-final replay at Slough is this coming Saturday.

The game should have been played last Tuesday but Wanderers' FA Trophy replay against Hayes forced a postponement. After prolonged discussion between the clubs, they finally agreed on this Saturday. So Blues are forced to postpone their league game against Sutton as the Senior Cup takes precedence.

This will be the fourth time these two keen rivals have met this season and Wycombe have yet to win. The Senior Cup is their only realistic chance of a title, although officials have not ruled out the possibility of snatching the League championship.

That is a remote possibility especially after Barking's victory at home to Oxford on Saturday. The title looks like going to either them or Enfield, with Dagenham as a good outside bet.

Unhappy

Should they beat Slough, Blues would meet Hungerford in the Senior Cup final. On Saturday Hungerford defeated Newbury 1-0 in the semi-final thanks to a first half goal by Farmiloe.

Blues have unhappy memories of their last competitive match against Hungerford two seasons ago when they suffered a shock 2-1 defeat.

Talking of unhappy memories, Blues fans were still stunned by that defeat by Hayes in the FA Trophy. The gloom was not lifted by the result of Saturday's quarter-final — Runcorn 2, Hayes 1.

Such a narrow defeat for Hayes leads Blues supporters to suspect that their team could have done even better. But it now seems likely that Runcorn will go on to win the Trophy.

There was better news of another Isthmian side, however. Congratulations to Dagenham for their 2-0 victory over Yeovil. This result confirms the Isthmians' status over Southern League sides.

TERRY Scott's knack of being in the right place at the right time served Wycombe well again on Saturday when he prodded home a goal eight minutes from the end of a dreary match to give them their fourth successive Berger Isthmian League victory.

Until he scored after Mick Holifield's initial shot had struck the crossbar Wycombe looked like dropping two points to the bottom side in the league, who had lost 22 of their 30 previous matches this season.

That really would have been the ultimate ignominy of a week which started with that depressing defeat at home to Hayes in the FA Trophy. A draw was all they really deserved but thanks to their one incisive move of the whole 90 minutes, they clinched three points and so moved up to fourth place in the table.

Holifield took a short pass from Steve Long on the burst, and cut through the Stones' defence with his searing pace. As the goalkeeper came out Holifield fired for goal only to see his shot crash against the crossbar. But there was Scott, picking up the bits and pieces to slide the ball home from five yards.

So Wycombe took advan-

By MICHAEL KNOX Leytonstone 1, Wycombe 2

tage of other teams' inactivity to move three places up the table. Heavy snow had ruled out all but one other Premier Division match but the Granleigh Road pitch drained quicker than the others and was quite playable, although extremely muddy.

It was the sort of pitch where everybody is brought down to the same level and this allied to the depressing atmosphere — there were fewer than 200 spectators — were the reasons for Blues' uncertain play.

With Peter Spittle having departed, and John Maskell still injured, Wycombe brought in youth team goalkeeper Chris Way for his debut. He acquitted himself neatly although, of course, he still has much to learn.

Mead left out

The other major change saw Keith Mead left out — and Steve Hardwick switched to his best position in the centre of the defence. I was also glad to see Paul Birdseye return to right back. To make this possible Les Reed played in midfield.

Leytonstone, encouraged by the midweek victory over Leatherhead, looked far from the worst side Wanderers have met this season. David Jacques and

the coloured Paul Powell caused the defence all sorts of problems. Bobby Davies had an off-game and it was only the competitive instincts of Alan Phillips that prevented Blues going behind early on.

It was Phillips who had a hand — or rather a head — in the goal that put Wycombe ahead in the 32nd minute. Birdseye sent a typically long throw to the near post, Phillips flicked the ball across goal and there was Holifield with the time and room to score.

A minute before half-time Stones equalised. Jacques found room on the right to send a dangerous cross into the goalmouth, Terry Hurlock left it for Powell who stooped to send a low header inside the left post. Way could be faulted for not cutting out the cross, but Powell took his chance superbly.

Fiddling

The Wycombe defence continually made the mistake of fiddling about with the ball on the edge of the penalty area, a fatal tactic — if it could be called that — in muddy conditions.

They were nearly made to pay for that just after the break when Powell took advantage of loose play to find

the net again. But to Wycombe's relief the linesman's flag was up for off-side and the effort disallowed.

Stewart Atkins, who seemed to have got out the wrong side of bed that day, was replaced by Dylan Evans midway through the second half and his presence certainly gave the side more life.

But it was Scott, watched by a scout from Tottenham, whose opportunism made the vital difference.

LEYTONSTONE: D. Danson; L. Cornwell, K. Hayzledean, J. Lye, M. McCayns, W. Attwell, D. Jacques, J. Wilsonham (sub: G. Parker 70 mins), T. Hurlock, P. Powell, S. Smith.

WYCOMBE: C. Way; P. Birdseye, R. Davies, L. Reed, A. Phillips, S. Hardwick, S. Atkins (sub: D. Evans, 70 mins), M. Holifield, S. Long, H. Kennedy, T. Scott.

Referee: M. Topping (Surrey). **Half-time:** 1-1. **Scores:** Leytonstone — Powell (44 mins); Wycombe — Holifield (32), Scott (82).

BERGER ISTHMIAN LEAGUE												
PREMIER DIVISION												
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts					
Barking	29	18	8	3	64	37	62					
Slough	32	17	7	8	46	33	56					
Enfield	28	17	5	6	52	28	56					
Wycombe	30	15	7	8	45	28	62					
Dagenham	27	16	4	7	53	39	52					
Dulwich	29	14	9	6	50	27	51					
Hendon	33	13	11	9	42	37	50					
Croydon	27	13	6	8	38	26	45					
Boreham Wd	34	12	9	13	44	51	45					
Leathhead	28	13	5	10	42	28	44					
Woking	29	12	8	9	56	44	44					
Oxford	34	12	7	15	43	60	43					
Tooting	30	11	8	11	40	39	41					
Hitchin	33	11	8	14	48	57	41					
Sutton	31	10	8	13	41	36	38					
Walthamstow	31	11	5	15	46	53	38					
Tilbury	32	10	8	14	46	63	38					
Carshalton	29	7	10	12	37	49	31					
Hayes	30	6	11	13	31	44	29					
Staines	30	5	12	13	31	48	27					
Kingston	34	3	11	20	26	54	20					
Ley Stone	31	3	5	23	23	63	14					